

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 25, 2004**

Members Present: Matthew Smith, Chairman; Harry Atherton, William G. Downey, Garrett Moore, William D. Nace, Sam Poles and Liz Cook

Members Absent: J. David Cubbage, Laurence Mason, Gary Nelson and Holder Trumbo

Guests Present: Rick Carr, Merle Fallon, Dick Keller, Judy Lamana, James Wiley and Lynn Wiley

Staff Present: Virginia Bowen and Fran Williams

1. Approval of January 28, 2004 Committee Meeting Minutes.

On motion made by Bill Downey and seconded by Bill Nace, it was moved to approve the January 28, 2004 Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Consider the Status of Huntley Road as to Whether the Road is a County/Public Road or a Private Road – James and Lynn Wiley.

Lynn Wiley stated that she and her husband purchased a ± 6.0 -acre parcel at the end of Huntley Road (Route 697) in April 1999. They have accessed the property by automobile up to the far end of the property many times during the time prior to purchase and the months after purchased until approximately six (6) months after settlement when a chain was placed across the road at a spot approximately 400 feet from the beginning of their property. It is the assumption of Mr. and Mrs. Wiley that the chain and lock were placed there by the adjacent land owner or his agent. Since that time they have been unable to access their property by Huntley Road (Route 697).

Mr. and Mrs. Wiley provided the Committee with copies of deeds showing the chain of title for two parcels, one on the north side of the County road identified as ± 6.0 acres and an 11.0-acre parcel entirely south of the county road. Mrs. Wiley stated that both parcels are at the end of Huntley Road (Route 697) and were conveyed with a description in the land records which refers to "county road" to describe that portion of the boundary for both parcels.

Merle Fallon, legal representative for the owner of the 11.0-acre parcel, stated that this matter has been the subject of extensive litigation. Mr. Fallon stated that the court ruled that Mr. & Mrs. Wiley do not have access from his client's side of the mountain. This matter was also taken to the Virginia Supreme Court, which ruled that no error was made and they would not review the case. Mr. Fallon further stated that he does not believe it would be appropriate for the Transportation Committee, the County or VDOT to get involved in this issue.

Garrett Moore will check VDOT's records to see what they have on file regarding this matter. Harry Atherton instructed staff to send copies of all information provided from both parties to Paul McCulla, County Attorney, for his review. Once Mr. McCulla has reviewed the information Staff will advise the Committee of his findings.

3. Discussion of the Draft Strategic Transportation Plan – Rick Carr and Dick Keller. (Item #5)

Rick Carr, Director of Community Development, and Dick Keller, the County's transportation consultant, discussed the Draft Strategic Transportation Plan which integrates the Board of Supervisors' adopted transportation elements of the Bealeton, Calverton, Catlett, Midland, Opal and Remington Service District Plans into a single coordinated document. It covers roadways, bike paths, airport access and future Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Service and its objective is to serve as the staging and blueprint for transportation planning and implementation in Fauquier County.

The Draft Strategic Transportation Plan is an action program that represents the coordinated staging for transportation elements of service district plans identified within it. Included within the document is also a prioritized "road map" of actions necessary to implement key components of these plans, patterned after the New Baltimore Service District. For example, this document can be used in the development of Board of Supervisors' recommendations to VDOT regarding specific County priority projects needing to be placed in the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Carr stated that one unique aspect of the Strategic Transportation Plan is that it presents two discrete scenarios, both starting with the adopted transportation elements of the Bealeton, Calverton, Catlett, Midland, Opal and Remington Service District Plans, but ending with dramatically different results. Scenario A represents what occurs if the County chooses not to implement its plan, while Scenario B illustrates the long-term result if the plan is implemented with VDOT assistance.

Mr. Carr further stated that the Board of Supervisors has been briefed on the Draft Strategic Transportation Plan, which will now be forwarded to the Planning Commission so that a Public Hearing can be held and a recommendation made to the Board.

Garrett Moore stated that the study conducted by Mr. Keller's company, Kellerco, is completely separate from VDOT. Mr. Moore stated that there are some environmental issues as well as other matters, such as the location of historic sites that VDOT considers problematic with the Draft Strategic Transportation Plan.

4. Consider the Safety of the Intersection of Carter's Run Road and Route 17 – Hazel Olson. (Item #3)

Hazel Olson was not present at the meeting. Liz Cook provided the Committee with a letter from Ms. Olson in which she describes the increased danger for motorists at the intersection of Carter's Run Road and Route 17.

Garrett Moore will have VDOT's traffic engineers take a look at this to see what can be done.

5. Discuss Lake Daniel Road Improvements. (Item #4)

Liz Cook provided the Committee with an e-mail from Daniel Beaver who lives on Molson's Ridge Lane, which is off Lake Daniel Road, in which he requests that the remainder of Lake Daniel Road be accepted into the Secondary System of State Highways.

Garrett Moore stated that he has informed Mr. Beaver of the County's moratorium on bringing rural addition roads into the system. ***Garrett Moore and Sam Poles will meet with Mr. Beaver to discuss his concerns.***

6. *Discuss Hard Surfacing Unpaved Roads – Garrett Moore.*

Garrett Moore stated that in the past VDOT has tried to make sure a certain number of unpaved roads were being paved. Mr. Moore stated that he is finding increasingly, not just in Fauquier County, but also in Rappahannock County that many residents along these unpaved roads do not want to see them paved. Therefore, in order to pave these roads there must be a strong and clear majority of property owners who are in favor of doing so. Mr. Moore further stated that if the County decides not to pave these roads none of the funding would be lost.

7. *Discuss Prioritizing VDOT Maintenance Work – Garrett Moore.*

Garrett Moore stated that VDOT will be making a ditching and culvert schedule for maintenance work this summer so that the roads in the worst shape will be taken care of first. Mr. Moore stated that in addition to the ditching team, VDOT will have another crew to take care of emergencies.

8. *Consider Making a Recommendation on the Virginia Department of Transportation Secondary Six-Year Plan – Garrett Moore.*

This item will be considered at the March Committee meeting.

9. *Receive an Update on the Route 17 Traffic Study – Garrett Moore.*

Garrett Moore stated that VDOT's traffic engineering division has completed the traffic study of the section of Route 17 just north of Route 628 and determined that a speed reduction cannot be justified at this time.

10. *Fauquier County Code of Ethics.*

This item will be considered at the March Committee meeting.

11. *Other Items.*

Bill Downey informed the Committee that he has met with David Blake who owns Buckland Farms. Mr. Blake has formed a foundation to preserve and revitalize Buckland as a historical resource for archeological and historic reasons which are quite good. However, Mr. Blake is proposing the closure of Route 29 through Buckland and the rerouting of Route 29 northwest to connect with Route 66 at points as yet undetermined.

Sam Poles stated that he has been contacted by Fred Beaudry who lives on Leeds Manor Road next to Mt. Morris Baptist Church concerning the patching which was done on Crest Hill Road (Route 647). Garrett Moore stated that this road is on VDOT's list for repairs.

Liz Cook stated that she has been contacted by Janine Van Norman requesting "Turtle Crossing" signs along the entire length of Dumfries Road (Route 605) from Route 28 to Route 29. The Committee decided that they are not in favor of installing these signs since all secondary roads in the County have this same issue.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.